

**APPENDIX E**

**Chancellor's Letter**



Oregon  
University  
System

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May 16, 2013

Dr. Bob Davies  
President  
Eastern Oregon University  
One University Boulevard  
La Grande, OR 97850-2899

Dear President Davies,

I have reviewed your Draft Campus Sustainability Plan and the PowerPoint used to present it to the campus community, and I want to express my support for the tough decisions you, the provost, and deans are making. While I recognize that these changes are challenging for the campus, they represent necessary actions that will replace structural challenges with long-term sustainability.

In particular, I am impressed with your willingness to revise the business model through innovation and a commitment to academic standards and quality. As we have discussed in the past, I expect that better "Load Management" is critical; I recognize that overload has been a constant issue at EOU and I am very happy that you are confronting it. I also support your willingness to address the matter of under-enrolled courses; while your course offerings should directly reflect the institution's unique mission, we simply can't sustain low enrolled courses at levels previously documented at EOU. Related to the low enrolled courses issue is the breadth of minors and concentrations that has led to curriculum creep. My strong recommendation is that you engage the campus in an analysis of those minors and concentrations that best advance your particular mission and local industry needs and prune your current list down to those most vital to the region's future.

While every university campus would prefer to avoid cuts to the core mission, it is clear that additional administrative cuts beyond those recently taken at EOU are unlikely to yield further benefit. The campus has already cut deeply in key administrative areas, and I fear that further administrative cuts could result in significant sustainability issues and place the university at risk in other ways. At all times the university must preserve proper segregation of duties in order to maintain operational and fiscal controls. While we would all prefer to hold the academic units harmless in times of fiscal austerity, we simply can't continue with "business as usual."

I commend you and your team for your vision, leadership, and commitment to Eastern Oregon University's future. If my office can provide any additional support or service to the EOU campus, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Rose".

Melody Rose, Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor  
Oregon University System

Cc: Kirk Scheuler  
Jay Kenton